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SOUTH KOREA: Aftermath of Rangoon Bombing

Both North and South Korean forces have raised their defensive posture in the wake of Sunday's bombing in Rangoon—the responsibility for which remains unclear. [REDACTED]

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South Korean officials are convinced that the North Koreans are behind the bombing and that President Chun was the principal target. Seoul declared a state of emergency following the incident. North Korean forces have taken additional precautionary measures along the Demilitarized Zone, [REDACTED]

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Chun's reaction to the incident reportedly is controlled, and he has indicated he will focus on rebuilding his cabinet in the next few days. [REDACTED] the military recognizes the possible consequences of retaliatory action and is not pressing Chun to take such steps. [REDACTED]

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Comment: There is no evidence to support South Korean claims of P'yongyang's involvement. Some circumstantial evidence—such as Chun apparently being the target rather than Burmese officials—points to that conclusion. Nonetheless, Burmese insurgents or recently purged Burmese security officials intent on embarrassing the government could be responsible. [REDACTED]

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For the moment, Chun faces the task of finding new cabinet officers and senior economic advisers to replace the respected professionals killed in the incident. Particularly serious losses are Chun's able Foreign Minister, Lee Bum Suk, and senior economic adviser Kim Jae Ik, whose skillful guidance of Seoul's economic policy was a major source of international confidence in the country's economy. [REDACTED]

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EL SALVADOR: Fighting Continues

Heavy combat is reported in eastern El Salvador, as the Army moves to blunt the guerrillas' continued offensive. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

According to the press, the guerrillas attacked the electric power grid over the weekend, blacking out the eastern third of the country. [REDACTED]

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The Army also has been reacting to the guerrilla buildup in San Vicente Department, according to the US defense attache. Some 800 insurgents are said to be massed at the strategic Chichontepec Volcano and have carried out probing actions against small towns near the departmental capital. An officer in the elite Bellosa Battalion currently assigned to the area says an insurgent attack last week near the village of San Diego prompted an Army counterassault, resulting in 150 guerrilla casualties. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Seasonal weather changes are causing air support problems, and the Army is experiencing logistic difficulties as it responds to insurgent attacks in several departments. It appears mindful, nonetheless, of the need to engage guerrilla forces before they develop more momentum. [REDACTED]

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There has been no new information on Army counterinsurgency operations in southwestern Chalatenango Department, which were to begin yesterday, or on the engagement last week in San Vicente Department. The guerrillas have charged the Army with killing nearly 200 unarmed civilians during that battle. [REDACTED]

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FRANCE-IRAN: Bracing for Reaction

The French are preparing for a possible strong Iranian reaction to the sale of Super Etendard aircraft with Exocet missiles to Iraq.

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The French Ministry of Defense, which opposed the sale, is concerned about an Iranian military response, according to attache reporting. In particular, the naval staff anticipates a possible air threat to French naval forces in the region. French military sources have told the US defense attache in Paris that there is a limit to what France can do in the area, which the attache interprets to mean that possible US reactions figure prominently in French planning.

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The French Embassy in Washington has expressed concern to US officials about possible threats to French diplomatic missions in Tehran and elsewhere.

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Comment: The French probably are hoping that Baghdad will use the planes only for diplomatic leverage and as a defensive deterrent. If the Iraqis decide, however, to use the aircraft and their Exocet missiles to attack Iranian offshore oil platforms or tankers, the French will have to be prepared in case Tehran carries out its threats to close the Strait of Hormuz.

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Since the French have only limited resources in the area and have obligations in Lebanon, they would be dependent on the US for air cover and other assistance in military operations in the region.

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GREECE: Reaction to NATO Exercise

The Greeks claim that US and Turkish aircraft violated Greek airspace over the weekend and that US aircraft were intercepted and escorted out of Greek airspace after flying over a Greek Aegean island. The US and Turkey are participating in the final phase of a Mediterranean-wide NATO exercise from which Greece withdrew on 27 September. After the withdrawal, military units on five Greek islands were ordered to be on maximum alert on last Friday.

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Comment: Greece's reaction is similar to that noted during the last NATO exercise in the Aegean in May. The alleged airspace violations probably involved US and Turkish aircraft flying within the 10-nautical-mile airspace Greece claims around the Aegean islands but that the US and Turkey do not recognize. The exercise ends on Thursday, and it is possible that more incidents could occur.

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PHILIPPINES: Aquino Commission Resigns

The members of the presidential commission appointed to investigate the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino resigned en masse yesterday, after newly appointed chairman Arturo Tolentino declined to serve. Press reports indicate that President Marcos is considering Tolentino's recommendations to establish a credible investigative body. Opposition leaders remain opposed to any government inquiry as long as Marcos remains in power.

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Comment: Tolentino's refusal to serve on the commission and the subsequent resignation of commission members is a blow to the prestige of the Marcos government, but it paves the way for the formation of a credible investigation into the slaying. Opposition leaders had criticized the commission from its inception because its members were too closely allied to the government, and subsequent attempts by Marcos to "balance" the commission by appointing politically acceptable members had met with similar refusals to serve. The mass resignations, however, will increase the confidence of opposition leaders who have been engaged in almost daily demonstrations urging Marcos's resignation and may encourage them to oppose any new investigation.

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USSR-EGYPT: Possible Soviet Helicopter Delivery

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Egypt's Defense Minister told US officials last month that Cairo had rejected a very attractive offer to buy helicopters because Egypt wants to preserve its special ties with the US. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Egyptian leaders have told US officials that last month's visit to Cairo by the chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near East Department was routine, but he may have tried to persuade Cairo to carry through on the helicopter deal. Moscow is anxious to complete the first major aircraft deal with Egypt since the early 1970s and reestablish an arms supply relationship with Cairo. The Soviets also hope this deal will help persuade Cairo to stop delaying the expected restoration of ambassadorial ties. [REDACTED]

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JAMAICA: Seaga's Popularity Declining

Reliable polls soon to be released show Prime Minister Seaga's party has fallen 14 percentage points behind the opposition led by former Prime Minister Manley—an 11-point drop since April. Fewer voters are undecided, and the large youth vote is leaning toward Manley. Elections do not have to be held until the end of 1985, but a senior official in the ruling party is predicting eventual defeat unless Seaga snaps out of his despondent mood, revives flagging party spirits, and launches public works programs. Meanwhile, press reports state that the government-owned sugar corporation has laid off 11,000 workers because it currently is losing money on its sales.

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Comment: Public demands for increased government action are likely to become more strident. Seaga probably will increase government spending to try to reduce the current unemployment rate of 30 percent. Such a policy could violate commitments to the IMF on fiscal and monetary targets and risk loss of crucial foreign exchange and access to commercial credit.

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COLOMBIA: Actions Against Drug Traffickers

The US Embassy reports that the government has issued warrants for the arrest of two of the country's well-known drug traffickers—Carlos Lehder and Pablo Escobar—who also are politically active. Lehder has gone underground, and Escobar has been abandoned by his political mentor—presidential aspirant Alberto Santafimio. Bogota also is investigating the actions of 14 Colombian judges suspected of improprieties in handling narcotics cases. In addition, a Supreme Court magistrate has recommended to the court's penal section that it approve the extradition of drug trafficker Gomes Von Grieken to the US.

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Comment: The antidrug campaign probably will have little impact at the local level, where drug dealers will continue to use bribery and force to retain their considerable influence.

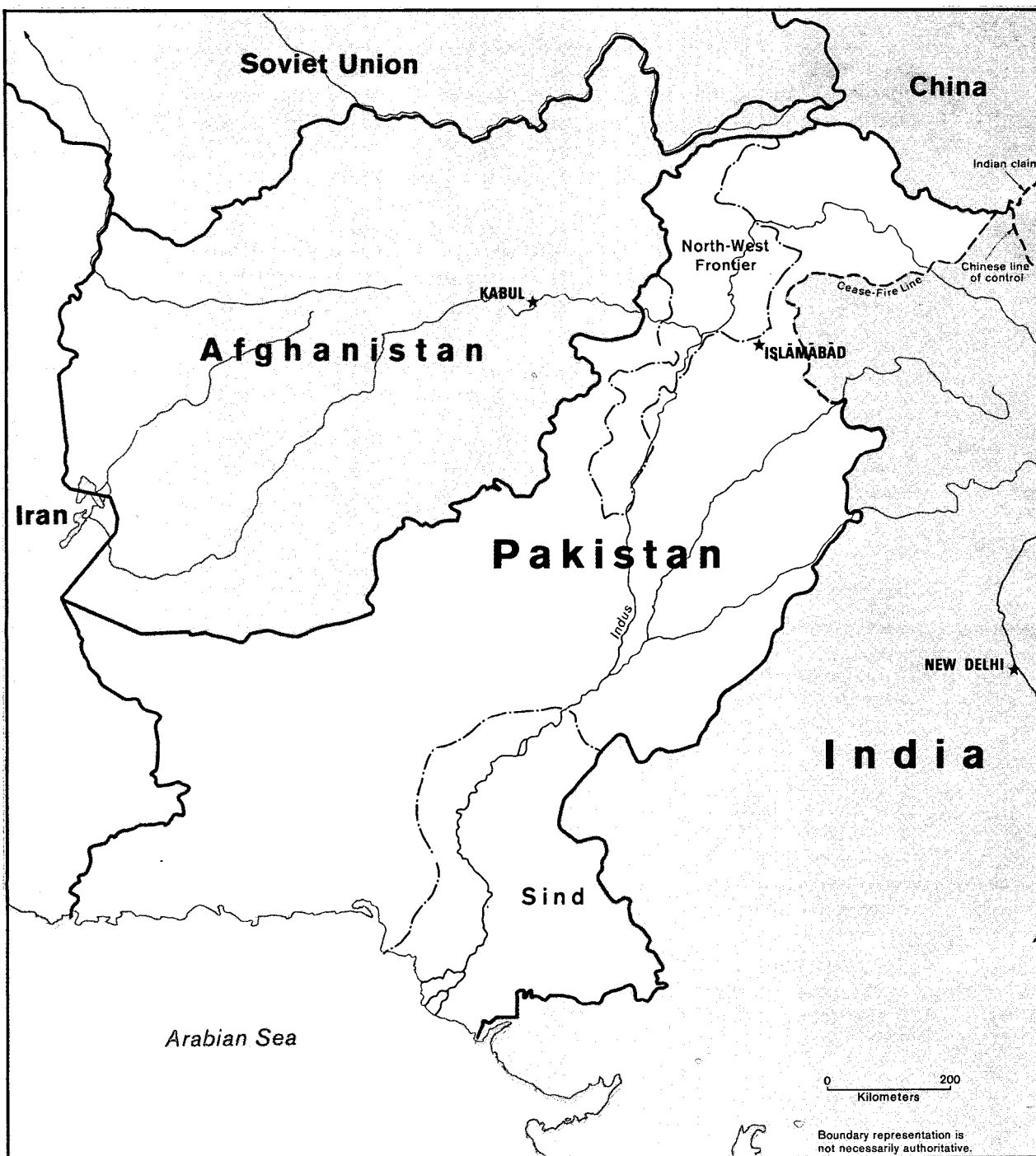
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PAKISTAN: Failure of Heroin Crackdown

The US Embassy reports that government officials have not acted on evidence collected by US investigators that heroin processing and trafficking in North-West Frontier Province is continuing, despite a government crackdown on trafficking by tribal leaders. The officials, for example, admit conducting only cursory investigations of known laboratories. Moreover, US officials report that traffickers arrested in Pakistan with \$1 million in heroin destined for the US have been fined only \$4,000 and released. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The government's policy of relying on tribal leaders to enforce narcotics laws is failing because tribal justice is slow, uneven, and ineffective. The governor of North-West Frontier Province and other high-level officials probably are concerned that investigations and enforcement could cause tribal unrest and possibly expose associations between government officials and traffickers. The government, which already faces a troubled situation in Sind Province, is unlikely to take any steps that might undercut popular support in North-West Frontier Province. [REDACTED]

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Special Analysis

SUDAN: Nimeiri's Problems and Prospects

President Nimeiri's position is being weakened by dissent in the Army and in the south. In addition, his sudden imposition of Islamic law last month and the recent detention of the leader of the important Ansar sect for illegal political activity have alienated other influential groups and have raised questions about his judgment. The opposition to Nimeiri, however, has not yet become organized.

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Nimeiri can remain in control only if the Army stays out of politics and follows orders in case of widespread unrest or a coup attempt. Most members of the 51,000-man military apparently remain loyal.

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The regime has had limited success in using special benefits to shield the Army from economic hardship. Like most other Sudanese, however, the military is being hurt by the steady decline in the standard of living.

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Southern Dissidence

The President's standing in the military seems likely to slide further as antigovernment violence continues in the south. The Army appears split between those favoring a forceful suppression of southern dissidents and those reluctant to send Arab troops to combat rebels in the black, Christian-animist south.

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Nimeiri's decision last spring to divide the south into three smaller administrative regions caused deep resentment among many southerners. Unless he moves to placate advocates of a united and autonomous south, violence there is likely to grow.

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The government cannot guarantee safety outside of the major towns, and the US Embassy has reported a series of security incidents in the south. The attacks stem in large part from the division of the south and from Nimeiri's order that some southerners in the Army serve in the north. [REDACTED]

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Since those moves were announced, there have been signs of growing cooperation among some southern dissident factions, southern politicians opposed to the division, and southern "mutineers" who refused to rotate. These groups are divided by many tribal and personal rivalries, but even limited coordination among them will make the violence in the south more difficult to contain. [REDACTED]

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Libya and Ethiopia will continue to fan unrest in the south. [REDACTED]

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Imposition of Islamic Law

Nimeiri appears intent on following through with his decision to enforce Islamic law. Two weeks ago he led a procession of officials to dump now-forbidden liquor in the Nile River. On 29 September he declared an amnesty and virtually emptied Sudan's prisons because the inmates had not been tried under Islamic codes. [REDACTED]

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The President's Islamization campaign has assured him of the continued support from the politically potent Muslim Brotherhood. The radical changes probably have alarmed most nonfundamentalist Sudanese, however, and they will add to resentment in the south. [REDACTED]

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Reliance on Suppression

The government has moved swiftly to suppress signs of internal dissent. Three prominent southern politicians who publicly opposed the division of the south have been put in prison. [REDACTED]

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A new law appears to give the government a blank check for further suppression of political dissent. It legalizes imprisonment or death for anyone who "commits, instigates, or assists in action . . . to destroy authority or the political organization." [REDACTED]

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Meanwhile, opponents of the regime remain factionalized. Contacts among them appear tentative at best, and they are united only in their opposition to Nimeiri. They are unlikely to overcome their ideological and ethnic differences any time soon. [REDACTED]

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Nimeiri has ruled for 14 years, weathering several crises. He has skillfully balanced the interests of one segment of society against another. [REDACTED]

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Nonetheless, the growing unhappiness of so many different groups with the government has raised the odds of a move against it. The possibility of an assassination attempt on Nimeiri also is increasing. [REDACTED]

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